

State of South Dakota

SEVENTY-NINTH SESSION LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 2004

922J0570

SENATE BILL NO. 117

Introduced by: Senators Olson (Ed), Brown, Dempster, Ham-Burr, Moore, and Sutton (Dan)
and Representatives Van Etten, Garnos, Gillespie, Haverly, Hennies, Kraus,
McCoy, and Murschel

1 FOR AN ACT ENTITLED, An Act to establish a task force to improve the quality and
2 availability of child care and early learning opportunities.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA:

4 Section 1. There is hereby established a task force to improve the quality and availability
5 of child care and early learning opportunities. The task force shall examine the current child care
6 and early learning system for children in South Dakota and provide recommendations for
7 improvement in a report to the Eightieth Session of the Legislative Assembly. The evaluation
8 by the task force shall include the following areas within the child care and early learning
9 system:

- 10 (1) Review the current provision of services, pending initiatives, ongoing planning
11 activities, and funding sources available;
- 12 (2) Review national best practices and incentives to improve quality with an emphasis
13 on service delivery in rural states;
- 14 (3) Identify possible gaps in the continuum of services and seek solutions building upon
15 or enhancing current systems to prevent duplication of services; and



1 (4) Identify barriers to quality child care and availability, such as caregiver turnover,
2 caregiver pay and benefits, professional development opportunities, consumer
3 awareness of quality care and learning, funding adequacy, and service access in rural
4 areas.

5 Section 2. The task force to improve child care and early learning opportunities may not
6 exceed twenty members. The Executive Board of the Legislative Research Council shall appoint
7 one senator and one representative to the task force. The secretary of social services shall
8 appoint no more than eighteen members to the task force. The secretary's appointments shall
9 include parents of children in paid child care; provider representatives from registered and
10 unregistered family day care homes, group family day care homes, and day care centers;
11 professionals in early childhood education; representatives of advocacy organizations;
12 representatives of business and economic development; and representatives of the Department
13 of Education, the Department of Social Services, the Department of Health, and the Department
14 of Human Services.